

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

The *Sun* is the source of light and heat to our system. Its true diameter is upwards of 887,000 miles, its bulk is 1,384,000 greater than the Earth, and 700 times greater than that of all the planets and satellites together. It revolves on its axis in about 25 days 7 hours and 48 minutes.

Mercury is the nearest planet to the Sun, being about 36,890,000 miles from it. It performs its revolution round the Sun in 87 days 23 hours, which is the length of its year. The diameter of Mercury is about 2,950 miles; its bulk 1-16th of the Earth.

Venus.—Distance from the Sun 68,000,000 miles; the length of its year is 224 days 16 hours; the rotation on its axis is 23 hours 21 minutes. Its diameter is about 7,800 miles; its bulk is about 8-10ths that of the Earth.

The *Earth* is also one of the planets that revolve about the Sun. Its mean distance is about 95,000,000 miles, and its diameter about 7,912 miles.

Mars.—Distance from the Sun 145,205,000 miles; the length of its year is 686 days 23½ hours; its true diameter is about 4,500 miles, which is rather more than half the diameter of the Earth.

The Asteroids.—Very small planets between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Up to this time 62 have been discovered, of which Vesta, Juno, Ceres, and Pallas are the largest; but all are invisible to the naked eye. They revolve at the distance of two or three hundred millions of miles from the Sun, and in periods of from three to five years.

Jupiter.—Mean distance from the Sun 495,917,000 miles; performs its revolution in 4,334 days 15 hours; its true diameter is 88,000 miles, and its bulk is 1,281 times that of the Earth. Length of its day, 9 hours and 56 minutes. Jupiter has four satellites or moons.

Saturn.—Distance from the Sun about 909,000,000 miles; the length of its year is 10,755 days; its true diameter is 73,000 miles; its bulk is 995 times that of the Earth. Saturn has eight satellites and is also surrounded with a double ring.

Uranus.—Mean distance from the Sun about 1,829,000 miles; it performs its revolution in about 84 years. The planet has six satellites.

Neptune, the most remote and latest discovered planet, is 2,864,000 miles from the Sun. It is 35,000 miles in diameter; revolves around the sun in 164 years; and has at least one satellite,

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